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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

1 APR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED

APR - 7 1993

Dear Senator Specter:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This is in reply to your letter of February 11, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, George D. Burns, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). We were unable to respond directly to Mr. Burns because there is no address in his letter. This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituent is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituent's concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Your constituent's letter will be included in the record of the proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward R. Jacobs for

Richard J. Shiben
Chief, Land Mobile & Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

Congressional

DUE OBC: 2-26-93

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

PRB
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February 11, 1993

Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Solheim:

My office has been contacted by a constituent of mine, Mr. George D. Burns of Harrisburgh, Pennsylvania, who is concerned about the increase in land mobile frequencies.

Please accord this matter all due consideration. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Burns' letter for your review. I have informed him that his inquiry has been referred to your office. I would appreciate your responding to Mr. Burns directly.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/mrp

Enclosure

1026-01

January 30, 1993

The Honorable Arlen Specter
228 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

SK → MK - 7M

Dear Senator Specter:

My nine year old son Christopher and I are enthusiastic model airplane builders and flyers. We compete in model soaring contests all over the East Coast. I have been active in modeling since I was a child. My son, who is extremely competitive, has been flying since he was six years old. I am president of the LIFT club of York and immediate past treasurer of the Harrisburg Area Flying Society. Both of these clubs actively promote model aviation and sponsor various community activities in pursuit of our hobby.

Recently it has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing rulemaking which will dramatically impact on my use of existing radio equipment. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, this new rulemaking will greatly reduce the usability of radio frequencies assigned for model use. The proposed rulemaking will likely increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes. This implementation of the rulemaking is unnecessary as there are many viable options which do not encroach on or jeopardize existing users of the affected frequencies.

Specifically, model aircraft operate on the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our assigned frequencies are far enough apart from other users that frequency interference has not been a problem.

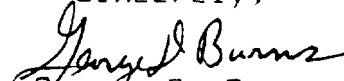
The FCC proposal is to establish additional land mobile frequencies by splitting the existing channels into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. The bottom line on this proposal is that the new frequencies will be too close to our existing radio control bands. The FCC does not see this as a problem because their frame of reference to conflicting bands is merely that one conversation or data transmission blocks out another and the conversation is repeated with no real consequence.

When interference occurs to a model aircraft, the aircraft is no longer under the control of its pilot and frequently results in a crash. Model airplanes are expensive. I own several whose replacement value is more than \$1,000. To me the FCC's proposal represents an unwarranted and unreasonable threat to my most cherished recreation. Because there are many administrative as well as technical alternatives to this proposal the FCC is unjustified in moving forward with this rulemaking.

I ask for your help in protecting my safe use of the radio bands authorized for controlling model aircraft. I am confident that if you conduct an inquiry into this rulemaking you will determine that there are viable, cost-effective alternatives which do not cause the dangerous interference that the existing proposal does. Please help me and all modeling enthusiasts.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


George D. Burns